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Railway Valuation.

Mr. LA FOLLETTE frequently and Mr. ROOSEVELT occasionally sing their little song about the necessity for a physical valuation of the railway properties of the United States. The President's latest public note was sounded in his message of January 31. It was not a clarion note, but it was sounded. The matter has now reached the point of a request on the part of the Senate Committee on Interstate Commerce to the Interstate Commerce Commission for an opinion on the question. The opinion is in process of preparation.

As a matter of theory there may bo no reason why the physical value of a railway should not be ascertained as is the value of any other enterprise. As a matter of fact the ascertainment of such value is attended by endless difficulty. A valuation may be made on any one of a number of different bases and a different result secured in each case. In the matter of the Kansas City stock yards (COTTING vs. Kansas City Stock Yards Company, 183 U. S., 91) Justice BREWER said that in ascertaining the fair value of the property used by a corporation maintaining a highway under legislative sanction "the original cost of construction, the amount expended in permanent improvements, the amount and market value of its bonds and stock. the present as compared with the original cost of construction, the probable earning capacity of the property under particular rates prescribed by statute and the sum required to meet operating expenses are all matters for consideration." He added, "we do not say that there may not be other matters to be regarded in estimating the value of the property.

Assume the appointment of three separate commissions, each con isting of five members selected for their ability. and each supported by all necessary clerks and assistants. Assume the assignment of all three to an appraisal of the property of the Pennsylvania Railroad, each to work with entire independence and wholly without even communication with either of the others. We venture the assertion that when their work was done and the returns were work has been attempted in many instances by State and local boards for the purpose of fixing a basis for taxation, and in every case, we believe, results have been secured by methods which were more or less arbitrary.

The theory that a parallel lies between a valuation that will serve as a basis for taxation or a valuation that will serve an industrial enterprise as a basis for profit making and a railway valuation that will serve as a foundation for the fixing of traffic charges is unsound. The price of commodities is readily adjusted to changes in market condirates. Traffic charges have no such elasticity, and can only be adjusted with

difficulty. Our present system is not ideal, but the facts and figures show that it is at least not grossly inequitable. Few now regard our rate charges as unreasonable; few allege extravagant or incompetent railway management, and the figures | ment can legally justify in a free land." do not show exorbitant railway profits. A physical valuation of the railways of the country would be exceedingly expensive; it would consume several years, and when it was done the results would in all probability be of very little use or

Some Remarkable Legislation Contemplated in England.

In the legislative programme which the Bannerman Government has determined to carry out during the present session of Parliament, so far, at least, as the House of Commons is concerned, there are two features of worldwide interest. We refer to the bill for shortening the working hours of coal miners, which is output of the combustible by about onefifth; and secondly, to the old age pension bill, which, unlike the pension law of Germany, will apply to every inon the preceding payment of con- case was then taken to the Supreme tributions by the beneficiary. We may say at once that if the former bill is placed upon the statute book British manufacturers will be handicapped in their competition with their American rivals, while if such an old age pension scheme as we have mentioned shall be sanctioned in the United Kingdom it will be difficult if not impossible to prevent a reproduction of it on this side of the Atlantic.

Let us take up these proposed innovations in their order and mark their full significance. It is computed by experts that the bill shortening the working hours of coal miners will if it become a law increase the price of coal, already high, by at least sixty-two cents a ton. sarily unfavorable to the workingman; tive committee of the Massachusetts Taft

of fuel will fall with peculiar severity of course, would gain in one direction what they would lose in another. This, however, would not be the case. The cost of a British manufacturer's products would manifestly be heightened by his absence of an express contract on the increased outlay for coal, and if under subject, for any reason which seems to such a disability he is to continue to him sufficient cannot be questioned withcompete with foreign rivals, American out at the same time questioning the or European, he will surely feel himself | right of the servant to leave the employraise them. The temptation to take sufficient. As Mr. Justice HARLAN points such a course will be intensified because out, unless there is a contract between Time daily and Sunday Sew is on sale in London | the present Government has repealed the parties controlling their conduct the export duty on British coal which toward each other and fixing a period was imposed by its predecessor. Since of service, their rights are reciprocal; the date of the repeal the demand in that is to say, the proposition that a the price of coal in the home market | will to remain in the personal service of has undergone a remarkable advance.

> Now let us glance at the old age pension bill, which, it is understood, will the British projected bill every human being in the United Kingdom who shall entitled to draw a certain sum of money weekly from the imperial exchequer. How are the pensions to be paid? Mr. ASQUITH, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, said a year ago that he should "earmark" or reserve a specifod fraction of the national revenue for the purpose, but the sum so set aside would fall very far short of the amount needed dollars a week to every man and woman sixty-five years of age or older. How is the deficit to be made good? Shall great economies be carried out in the military, naval and civil administration, or shall new sources of revenue be tapped? The Labor party insists that the latter course should be followed. and there are indications that the Liberal leaders are inclined to acquiesce in the demand. That is to say, they will get the money required for old age pensions by increasing the income tax and the death duties, thus making the rich support the poor. We need not point out that if such an old age pension scheme is accepted n England there will be plenty of men in the United States, as well as in France, to clamor for a coun-

> terpart of it. There is no civilized people which has not cause to watch narrowly the doings of the British Parliament during its present session.

Populists All.

At the "mass convention" of the People's party of Montana Saturday, for the purpose of electing delegates to the Populist national convention, only two Populists were present. Yet Montana has had a Populist Governor; and until within a year or two Populists have held a half or so of the State offices.

In other States the visible shrinking of the Populist strength may not have been quite as marked, but everywhere the Populists are a disappearing race. Only the fierce, untamable, Puritan Middle-of-the-Roaders survive.

Yet this vanishing party has consubmitted the appraisements would be quered as no other party in American many millions of dollars apart. The politics. If it has almost lost its separate entity and name, its spirit and its principles have been absorbed eagerly by the Republicans and by the Democrats.

There is no Republican party, save in name. There is no Democratic party, save in name. Two great Populist parties, each bidding against the other, possess the land. The gospels of Ocala and Omaha prevail.

The Decision in the Adair Case.

The decision of the Supreme Court of the United States in the Adair case, when thoroughly understood, turns out tions, to advance or decline in wage to be just as favorable to the interests of organized labor as it was supposed to be favorable to the interests of employers. Indeed, it expressly declares that the employee and the employer are entitled to equality of right before the law, and that "any legislation which disturbs that equality is an arbitrary interference with the liberty of contract which no govern-

WILLIAM ADAIR was a master mechanic of the Louisville and Nashville Railroad Company in Kentucky, and as such had power in behalf of the corporation to employ and discharge locomotive firemen. On October 15, 1906, he discharged a fireman named O. B. COPPAGE because of his membership in the labor organization known as the Order of Locomotive Firemen. ADAIR was indicted for this act, under the Federal statute which makes it a misdemeanor "to unjustly discriminate against any employee because of his membership in such a labor corporation, association cr organization." He demurred to the indictment; which means that he admitted the act charged in the indictment expected to lessen England's annual | but contended that it was not within the authority of Congress under the Consti-

tution to declare such an act to be unlawful. The trial court held against him in this respect, and upon the subsequent habitant above a specified age, and, trial he was found guilty of the accusaagain unlike the German law, will not tion and sentenced to pay to the United make the receipt of a pension depend | States a fine of one hundred dollars. The

> Court at Washington. The question which the appellant brought up for consideration and determination is thus stated by Mr. Justice HARLAN, who wrote the prevailing opinion:

> "May Congress make it a criminal offence against the United States for an agent or officer of an interstate carrier, having full authority in the premises from the carrier, to discharge an employee from service simply because of his membership in a labor organization?"

This question has been answered by a majority of the Judges in the negative. At first blush, the statement that the question has been thus answered con- Yes very loudly in Mr. GARDNER's ears; veys the idea that the decision is neces- and Cobb of Milton, chairman of the execu-

rect when we examin the reasoning by upon the very poor, who as it is find it which the court reached its conclusion. difficult to keep themselves warm in If Congress can deny the right of an winter. But that is not all or the worst. employer to dismiss an employee because If the wages paid by British manufac- he belongs to a labor organization, it turers should go up in proportion to the | can deny the right of an employee to advance in the price of coal, workmen, quit the service of a corporation because that corporation insists upon employing persons who do not belong to a labor organization. In other words, the right of a master to dismiss a servant, in the constrained to lower wages rather than ment for any cause which he deems parts of Europe has been so great that man cannot be compelled against his another, which is undoubtedly correct, demands the reciprocal conclusion that an employer is not under any legal oblidi Ter materially from the German prec- gation against his will to retain an emedent that makes workmen, their em- ployee in his service. In the Adair ployers and the State contribute to a case, COPPAGE, the locomotive fireman. pension fund from which contributors was under no obligation to remain in the alone may derive any benefit. Under employment of the Louisville and Nashville Railroad Company a moment longer than he chose so to do. He could leave have reached a prescribed age-this, it it whenever he liked, for any reason he is expected, will be sixty-five-will be liked, or without assigning any reason at all. This being the case, the railroad company, or ADAIR acting in its behalf. was equally at liberty under the law to discharge COPPAGE with or without any reason. Its action in so doing may have been most unwise and may have given the Order of Locomotive Firemen good cause for criticising the corporation in the domain of morals or economics; but to give even so small a stipend as three it was lawful, unless we are prepared to say that Congress could properly restrict the right of COPPAGE to leave the service of the railroad company at his own free will There is one other consideration which

makes it still plainer that the decision in the Adair case is really in no sense antagonistic to organized labor. If Congress could interfere with the right of an employer to discharge an employee in the manner attempted by the statute to which we have referred, there is no reason why it could not require those corporations which operate interstate railway lines to employ in the conduct of their business only persons who were not members of labor organizations. It may be said that there is not much danger of any such legislation, but that fact does not make any difference in regard to the principle involved. Under the Fifth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States, which declares that no person shall be deprived of liberty without due process of law, the employer and the employee stand on an absolute equality; and the same freedom of action which it guarantees to the servant must be allowed to the master. "It is a part of every man's civil rights," said that great lawyer Chief Justice Cooley of Michigan, "that he be left at liberty to refuse business relations with any person whomsoever, whether the refusal rests upon reason or is the result of whim. caprice, prejudice or malice. With his reasons neither the public nor third persons have any legal concern." This rule applies equally to master and to ADAIR case, which, far from giving the workingman just cause for complaint, is, indeed, an emphatic assertion of his complete liberty of action under the

Bryan and the Bushwhackers.

Our old familiar friend the Peerless One of the Platte has just told the Illinois Democrats at Springfield what he thinks of "bushwhackers." He means by that such delegates to the Denver convention as have not been instructed to vote for him. Of course that is not the real significance of the term, which was applied more than forty years ago to the followers of JIM LANE of Kansas-as brave a set of men as ever rode to battle anywhere. Mr. BRYAN has converted it to his uses, nevertheless, and we know exactly what he intends to say. Understanding nothing of real war, the Nebraska Colone may not be aware that "bushwhacker" is at leas as descriptive as "Rough Rider," if not more so.

But Mr. BRYAN, according to all present prospects, need not be afraid. For the moment it looks as though there will be "bushwhackers" worth mentioning at Denver. Naturally in these half crazy times notody can see four weeks ahead, but as things stand now both conventions are likely to be packed. There will be no threshing of the chaparral to discover hidden enemies. There will be no enemies to discover. The destinies of eighty-odd millions of people. with means of prosperity unparalleled in the history of the world, are in the hands of two men and may the devil

take the hindmost! "Bushwhackers!" Why, in the sense in which the word was applied in 1862 and 1862 the nation would be well off and Mr. BRYAN and his kind forgotten if the woods were full of them to-day.

The authorities in Philadelphia have forbidden the holding of anarchist meetings in that city hereafter. In this State the law for the repression of anarchist meetings has not been a conspicuous success and the prosecutions under it have stirred up sympathy for the accused. The suppression of talk meets with slight encouragement from the public. Moreover, if anarchist meetings are to be prohibited, why should not the more fiery of the Socialists be arrested when they denounce the existing political and social conditions?

The Hon. AUGUSTUS PEABODY GARDNER. M. C., who made the Hon. HENRY CABOT Longz famous, is carrying war into the bowels of Massachusetts: " I am for going out after instructed delegates

and getting them or dying in the attempt." He and Mr. Cobb, who comes from Milton, that golden country, have interviewed the Grand Elector on the subject. The Grand Elector "did not commit himself, Mr. GARDNER says. That silence voted

in crying Peace! Peace! when there is no peace," says Cobb of Milton, who has been well brought up. Fight and plenty of it is the Gardner-Cobb motto. Thus are the brethren in Massachusetts dwelling together in unity.

As a result of the study of Philippine geography in the last ten years the maps show more than double the number of islands and islets that were supposed a decade ago to be included in the great archipelago. The Spanish estimate of the rumber of separate pieces of land in the Philippines as about 1,200 was generally accepted, and as late as 1903 the reference books were still giving these figures. But the American exploring and survey parties have gone on scanning every bit of water for a new land surface big enough for one or more men to stand on, till the list makes 3,141 separate items, with large counties still to hea from Many hundreds of these bits of land, now first introduced to the maps, fill all requirements of the economists who insist that three acres and a cow are able to meet every necessity of a family. But most of them are mere specks in the great aggregation; 1,473 of them are not even named, and 2,046 have each an area of less than a tenth of a square mile. No numerous and almost negligible are these members of the family of which Luzon is the fourteenth and Nindanao the sixteenth largest island in the world.

A CAVALRYMAN'S PROTEST.

How the New Plan of Assigning West Point

Graduates Works Injustice. TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: Out here at a post in the far Northwest I have horsemanship test at West Point, Colonel Scott, the Superintendent, has said that the new method of assigning graduates "nullifles the classification based on scholarship and discipline, to the detriment of both." He takes as an example Cadet (now Lieutenant) Arnold, who stood No. 66 in his class and was qualified for the mounted service and who asked for that branch but did not get commission in it. Cadet Arnold was, in the opinion of his class, an excellent horseman; but he did not play polo as much as some other men because he was confined to barracks a good deal of the time. He did care a great deal for horses and would have made a much better cavalryman than in-

made a much better cavairyman than infantryman.

The same could be said of man after man of the class of 1907—men who, to quote an article in the Army and Navy Journal of February 2, "had worked four long years at West Point to get a certain branch of the service and who qualified in riding, too," but who are now in the infantry or else have resigned. Why? Because they have seen their efforts wasted, the work of those four hard years gone for nothing. Unkindest cut of all, they had seen men put into the mounted branches who could ride not one bit better than they and in two or three cases not nearly as well. That was the thing that hurt most, and, as the Army and Any Journal stated, was doubtless the determining factor in causing the resignation thing that hurt most, and, as the Armv and Na y Journal stated, was doubtless the determining factor in causing the resignation of so many men from the last class.

It has been stated that the assignments were made for the good of the service in that the infantry had got so few graduates of late. Does the War Department or the infantry think the "foot" will be benefited one bit by forcing men under such circumstances to go into it only to be always diasatisfied—men who were really entitled to the cavalry or the field artillery? Far from it. I hose men's best efforts can never be given to the Government, because they know how shabbily they have been treated.

Furthermore, they have no redress, for they lack even that privilege which is accorded other officers, of transferring to another branch, and all because they are graduates.

One more noint: Who composed the "board of officers" that passed judgment on cadets" qualifications in horsemanship? Nobody has as yet been able to find out, although several officers have tried. It seems hardly fair that any one should be subjected to such high handed treatment, even though he be a graduate of the "Point."

Footland, Ore., February 18.

From the Landon Globs. For some time past alarmist accounts of "ragging" and disorderly behavior on the part of Oxford and Cambridge undergraduates have been published in various quarters. A radical change is taking place in the ione, it might also be said in the quality rule applies equally to master and to servant, to employer and to employee, It is the basis of the decision in the by those before whose eyes it is occurring. But any one who was, say twenty years or so ago, as either university and has not since visited in would be astonished and dismayed by the alteration that has come over undergraduate manners, it might almost be added, morals. We are not allud-ing to "rags" and so forth which are confined to the colleges, which are for the most part, if not entirely what they always have been, mere ebuiltions of boyish high spirits, foolish, maybe, but not unmannerly or unmaniy. What we do refer to is the undoubted existence of what can only be fitly described as "hooliganism," exhibited by a certain

set of undergraduates is public.
At Cambridge some time since a policeman was so severely mauled by a party of undergraduates that he was crippled for life. No one was punished. In former days it was always Town vs. Gown, and heaven help those who got between, though in a tight corner the po could always count on varsity assistance; there is a tendency now for it to be Town cum Gown and to

The American Colors and the English Duke TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: Greville menthe Duke of Richmond during the American war. while he was Lord Lieutenant of Sussex, sailed in yacht through the [British] fleet when the King was there, with American colors at his mast head. The Duke quarrelled with his sovereign as early as 1763 or 64, when he told King George at the close of a private audience that "he | the King | had said to him which if he was a subject he should The King never not scruple to call an untrith." forgave him for it, according to Greville, and ap

parently the Duke did not forgive the King. It appears that the Duke sailed his yacht flying the hostile American colors under the guns of the leet which the King was reviewing without having a shot put into him or being otherwise molested, Whence this remarkable omission? Does it not look as if the colors were not particularly well known there at the time? It would be a curtous accident if this was the first time they were flows Greville does not mention the exact date, but no doubt any historian could sup-

ST. AUGUSTINE, Fla., February 20,

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: The world moves! Can you imagine the present editor of the Evening Post adopting as his own the following words of his illustrious predecessor, William Cullen Bry-ant, in a poem entitled "The Embargo" (1808), directed to Thomas Jefferson, and applying them

to Theodore Roosevelt; "Go, wretch! resign the Presidential chair, Disclose thy secret measures, foul or fair Go, search with curious eye for horn d frogs 'Mid the wild wastes of Louisiana bogs. WILLIAM C. GILMAN. NORWICE, Conn., February 21.

Three Mysterious Fullman Car Names TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: Leaving these sylvan solitudes the other day for New York, where the horse cars rattle o'er the stony street, they put me in a car called "Lobella," I almost threw up the trip. Coming back the car was the "Hydal," which seemed to ride all right. But wait, that's not the glad tidings of great joy I started out to tell you, which is—the Pullman Company has at least one car where you are safe from the porter. I saw it in Jersey City. It is called "Dun-

First Aid for Cold Ears. TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: If "Cold

PHILADELPHIA, February 22.

the ears are cold) lay the inside of his fingers against the eage of the ears and rub them quickly and forth till the ears burn there will be no cold ears for some time. Should they begin to feel old repeat. This is a sure remedy.

The Case of the Sprats. Jack Sprat could eat no fat, his wife could eat

to business misconduct in the past," thundered the President. blingly they realized the laws of nature were considered no great shucks.

It is obvious that such a rise in the price but this inference is shown to be incor- League, got his oue, too. "There is no use, THE ENGLISHMAN'S DISCOVERIES In Florida .-- A Reentering Angle Into Far South.

No matter how you go you cannot reach

Florida by land without crossing a long,

solemn wilderness of pine forests, and after you have entered the State the pines are still there. To a European, who associates pines with northern or mountainous regions, these ascetic glades make an odd background for trees bearing flower or fruit in midwinter, for palms and passionate plants, for waves glistening on tropic strands in an unseasonably ardent sunshine. Pines, sand and water are the three constants of Florida scenery. Orange groves and the rich luxuriance of polished leaf and flaming petal are occasional adfuncts, comparatively speaking, and it is not surprising after these proportions have been discovered to learn that the latter are mostly immigrants, coeval or thereabouts with the negro. The original Florida, as yet unchristened, was not florid. The essential Florida is not flamboyant to-day. The skies are flaunting, but the earth is sober; and the contrast between them has the charm of a nun's face in a reveller's costume. Some complain of the dulness of Florida scenery, but probably these are too discriminating people. They must notice first the tropical light and then the austere landscape, instead of perceiving both together. A sequence may be Hades, where a simultaneity is Paradisa

Jacksonville, a new town something like Los Angeles, is the gate of Florida; then comes St. Augustine, then Ormond, then Rockledge and the Indian River, then Palm Beach and then Miami, each surpassing its predecessor in temperature. The Riviera of Europe lies east and west and so has one temperature all along, and when a patient has had enough of that he must away and up into the mountains. Florida, being a long spit laid north and south, offers various climes on the dead level, for it is flat all over. It is, in fact, a horizontal thermometer. The patient desiring more or less warmth has merely to move to the next station in the chain, thence to the next, as from one room to another in a Turkish bath, so tempering and fortifying his system till he can safely venture home again.

To the ordinary frequenter of Florida such considerations are momentous Careless youth is conspicuously absent from its visitors. The golden boy is at college and the golden girl is having presumably too good a time in the "nive candida" to budge. Among a hundred heads at a dinner table you may count eighty silvered. Here at last the long sought leisured class of the United States confesses its existence. In busy American cities the question has occurred to many aliens, "Where are all the old people?" Well, in have to account for their summers.

The comeliest town of the east Florida chain is St. Augustine, which calls itself the "Ancient City." Tourists and antiquities often consort, and here you have at all events the tourists. If age is not the most conspicuous quality of St. Augustine that a defective world, and the back drivers point out in it not one, but two or more 'oldest house in the United States." "Old-"centre" is of Atlanta. This is the "oldest" | Uncle Toby and Corporal Trim, and a hischurch: that the "oldest" fort: that the torical regret crosses one's memory that the 'oldest" cemetery. Much of this patter | pair did not have it on their village green may be dismissed as mercenary and fallacious without impugning the word of St. Augustine is older than the New England towns, but has been less scrupulous in preserving its youth. Today it cannot display relics of the same rank in years. It has been devastated and renovated, and thereto careless, till the inscription "1571" which once surmounted one of its lintels exists only in hack drivers' is a modern hotel. It must be owned however, that the hotel is a wonder.

For a moment let us imagine a party of Europeans who had sailed for, say, the Canaries, driven out of their course by a series of storms, their navigator washed overboard and the survivors at last entirely ignorant of heir whereabouts. Let them arrive one evening off this point on the American coast. Weary of the salt ocean, they steer with some recklessness through the best of breakers along the outlying island of Anastasia into the still lagoon on the shore of which lies St. Augustine. What do their eager eyes see blocked against the golden red sunset? A great and extremely imposing city, to judge by the many towers and pinnacles and the high range of masonry looming beyond the smaller houses just distinguishable in the twilight at the water's edge. An Oriental city, it would seem, to judge by the minaret shape of the towers and by a Byzantine dome bulging between them. The wanderers would surely guess that they had somehow described a loop in their voyage and returned to the Old World and were now lying off some famous city in Algiers or southern Spain. They wait to land till next day. When the sun rises from ocean facing the place they discover that it is not so large as it appeared against the magnifying sunset. But their surprise and pleasure are not lessened.

With clean white houses among trees and gardens ornamenting the front and a castle or palace, as it seems, of most noble dimensions dominating the background, they have surely cast anchor before a jewel of a city, and stroke their foreheads for its name in Granada or Sicily or Tunis or maybe Illyria. They row to the jetty and step ashore in the Plaza de la Constitucion, which carries its lawns and fountains and live oaks right through the heart of the town to the castle walls, and as they gaze about them they still take it for granted that they have made a loop. They see some stores with English names over them and English advertisements in the windows; they see a board at the corner of a lawn bearing the words, "What shall it profit a man," &c.; and that, too, seems very Anglo-Saxon to them: they see tour ists walking and driving about whose gait or clothes proclaim them undeniable Anglo-Saxons, and many other signs inevitably found in any tourist resort of southern

On the other hand, the natives look Spanish or Italian in feature and complexion most of the storekeepers' names are Latin The narrow transverse streets without side pavements and with overhanging wooden balconies and here and there a mantilla belong to the Latin concatenation and the many Africans are not discordant with a Mediterranean hypothesis. They only wonder now that so neat a town with so noble a palace is unrecognized by any of them. They gaze up at the castle through the trees and ask one another to what great prince or duke it belongs. They surmise that it is marvellously well preserved, and one of the party ventures the guess that its owner has married an American heiress, by whose millions it has been renovated and its fortifications perhaps dismantledunless indeed these still exist on the further aide, where the walls of the town are pre-

sumed to lie. Then they stroll under the shade of the plaze a little nearer to the feudal pile and are puzzled to see over its different entrances large lettered signs enhatched here "Alcazar," there "Ponce de Leon." there "Cordova." Not without a shock, but not without pleasure, they are enlightened at last The palace is a group of superb hotels! And then they know

United States. In short, were it not for the magnificence of those "fakes" of Carrère & Hastings, to which every artis: must pay reverence, St. Augustine might well be a star of minor but distinct magnitude in another hemi-

in a flash that they have described no futile

loop. So fabulous a hotel enterprise is

inconceivable to any of them except in the

As for the Latinity of the natives, the tatement of the excellent historian of St. Augustine that "the Greeks and Minorcans brought to New Smyrna by Turnbull are the ancestors of a large majority of the resident population of St. Augustine at the present day" is fully in accord with the impression of a casual passerby. As they were described a century ago so they appear to-day, "a temperate, quiet and rather indolent people, affectionate and friendly to each other. They mostly keep little stores, cultivate small groves or gardens. or follow fishing and hunting. Poseys. masquerades and charivaris are , their principal diversions." I did not see a "posey" or a "masquerade" or a "charivari," but the people looked quite capable of all three. The saying that the way to a man's heart lies through his stomach holds true about antiquities, and when I questioned a native about their cooking he acknowledged a free use of garlic and a habit of reddening their dishes with saffron, Christobal Bravo was the name of the Mayor when the United States took Florida over, A man with that name must have been capable of more than saffron.

Any disr araging allusion to the antique

evidences of St. Augustine requires amend-

ment in respect of the fort, which has from

the beginning lain like a watchdog out-

side the town opposite to the entrance into the lagoon. The fort is an antiquity of a high order. It is true that it was only finished in 1750 or so, but it was begun long before and it has changed little since. When the British received the town from the Sraniards, in 1764, their surveyor in his inventory of the place described it as built on "Marshal Vauban's system." On Marshal Vauban's "little system" he might have said, for the marshal divided fortifications into three classes, and this belonged to his smallest class. But it is singularly perfect, and the beauty of the angles and curves in the masonry must surely be the envy of modern builders. It was never taken. When Oglethorre and Palmer attacked St. Augustine they seem to have regarded this scientific strucwinter they are in Florida, but they still | ture as beyond their as irations. "The Spaniards lay quietly within the walls of their castle." That sums up the military history of the town. Whenever there was an inroad the citizens fled into the castle. On the ocasion of Col. Palmer's raid it is recorded that "the Sranish inhabitants of the town and country fled into the fort. is not the fault of its back drivers. It is as but with execrable meanness excluded the trig and pretty a place as may be found in poor Indians [their allies], who were nearly all killed or made r risoners." The exquisite elaboration of this toy, as it now seems, though it was once so precious a savior of est a is the catchword of St. Augustine, as life, brings to a literary mind the ghosts of

In a certain English college where it was the custom to sharpen the wits of youth, as on stropping blocks, on a regular circuit of essay subjects, one of the subjects frequently proposed was, "What are the chief characteristics of American humor?" Old questions had old answers, and in my time fancies, and not the least venerable of its | the conventional answer invented by some monuments nowadays to a superficial eye prior genius to this inquiry was: "The irreverence of an unsophisticated mind toward high art and the beauties of antiquity." Which solution, I regret to say. was invariably illustrated and supported by quotations from the "Tramp Abroad." There was a kind of treachery in this reply, for most of us were undeniably fond of the "Tramp Abroad." Still, to shuffle off one of those detested essays we were quite capable of parodying a motto from a grandmother's tombstone. Now, when I found myself in this "ancient city" and saw so many American tourists brought face to face with the (alleged or real) beauties of antiquity our old essay came back to my mind, and I could not help asking myself, 'Are they really irreverent?" It appeared to me that au fond they precisely resembled European tourists confronting the antique. They tried to be sympathetic. but the attempt barely veiled a deadly indifference. After all, the natural sinful

Widow Wadman would probably have re-

mained unsuccessful

man is the same all the world over. Trick of the Grocery Trade. TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: I recently chased of a first class grocer in this city a "pint" of olive oil for the price of 40 cents. The quality

e bottle, instead of holding a pint, held about two or three tablespoonfuls over half a pint A gallon of the oil, worth say \$2 at wholesale, rill fill twelve or thirteen of these "pint" bottles and bring \$4.80 or \$5.20 to the vender. What makes the swindle all the more contemptible, the oil was their own brand, put up by them-

selves with their own labels on the bottle Of course they knew all about its being put up C. H. POST NEW YORK, February 22.

"In Respect Of."

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: In THE SUN OF February 13 H. L. Lack seeks the authority espect of." I refer him to Shakespeare's "Julius Cosar," Act I., scene i, line 9: "In respect of a fine workman." NEW YORK, February 22. TEACHER.

> When My Love Comes. My love may come in early spring Through orchards, April kissed, With happy bluebirds carolling In dreamy skies of mis Then sing, glad oriole, and hush The mourning of the dove olink and thrush; Of love, and love, and love!

Or she may come in summer days, When heated meadows rest And down the fields a goldfinch sways Upon the thistie's crest. Then, blackthroat, sing! You love the sun; Sing, quali, amid the heat; And all your songs shall make this one, My sweet! my sweet! my sweet

Her path may lie through leafless trees; Her dainty feet may stir Soft rustling leaves; the chickadees May all make love to her. Then, sun, shine soft from golden skies; Stay, happy wind, to kiss Her cheek, and fill my sweetheart's eyes With bliss, and bilss, and bilss

Across a track of drifting snow If she should chance to tread The lingering flakes shall come and go Around her darling head. The longing flakes shall touch her hair; Then, anowbird, round her dars Sing, shining snow and shining air, Sweetheart! Sweetheart! Sweetheart!

I would, if she shall come in spring,

That springtime might be here; I long for winter, if it bring My love a day more ne For what is spring or what is fall? Love only makes the skies My love shall blend the joy of all Sweet seasons in her eyes.

CZECH SYMPATHY.

A Bohemian Recalls a Movement Analo-

gous to the Gao'fe League. THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: recent articles published about young Mr. Seumas O'Sheel, alias James Shields, recall to my mind that a very similar state of affairs existed in Bohemia for many years to that which seems to be still in existence in Ireland and in English speaking countries in so far as they deal with Irish matters. The facts recounted below are well attested so far as they relate to great matters by testimony of history; the smaller matters are of tradition, much of it from my father, who left Bohemia in 1838, when he was over 30 years old, and knew whereof he spoke.

Bohemia, being like Ireland a conquered

and misgoverned land, felt the heel of "A German stranger very heavy on her neck, and our Czech people endured every humiliation possible; they were actually forbidden being enforced: no profession, whether law, medicine or even teaching, was open to them the very signs over shops and on lamp posts were in the hated foreign tongue. were referred to as "natives" by their Teutonic lords, and many indeed were found, as among were referred to as 'patives' by their Teutonic lords, and many indeed were found, as among the Irish, to Germanize their names in order to make progress with their rulers, for it was become so had that the Lord Himself was openly asserted to favor the Germans.

My father recalled how a boyhood friend of his who had a natural bent for scholarship being an applicant for a position as head master in a high school, up to which tin a had kept his proper Bohemian patronywic, actually changed his name to a German one of the same significance rather than fail of his ambition. His name sounded quite like the Irish 'Sullivan,' which is all I recall now of the same. The German critics found much to poke ponderous fun at in the guttural sound and unpronounceableness of Bohemian names in general, and such was the deplorable state of the "natives" themselves that many of them, if they got on in the world at all, declared that they were of German blood, and they often carried the change further by apostatizing from the Church and professing, as did the teacher spoken of, to be either agnostics or Protestants. When they reached this stage they were the most rabid haters of Czech ways that could be imagined, and my father used to laugh at some of the Irish people he met here who, having prospered, furned their coats exactly as his teacher friend and many others had done in Bohemia in his youth.

But a "young Bohgmia" started years ago.

furned their coats exact y as his teacher friend and many others had done in Bohemia in his youth.

But a "roung Bohemia" started years ago. which began to to exactly what the Gaelio League has done in fre and. Young men were encouraged to be good Bohemians and not imitation Germans: a feeling of nationality was created among the Czechs, o d songs were recovered and taught to the peope of dustoms revived and shown to be as good as the German ones that had been forced on us high school and college students he do to their Bohemian names with all the spelling so difficult to fordy German ears, and the very shopkeeper put out signs in the tongue of the people. To day conditions in that country, once fully as distressful as ever in freland, are almost normal, and I followed with great interest the attempt of Shamus O'Shale to spell his name as he pleased.

New York, February 22.

NEW YORK, February 22.

More Damming of the Nile.

From the London Times.

Sir William Willcocks in an address on "The Building of Nile Reservoirs" contends that the construction of a barrage at the junction of the White and Blue Niles at Khartum provides the principal engineering solution of the recurrence of low Nile floods, a danger minimized, it is true, by the construction of the Assuan dam, but still a peril to Egypt. He considers that an expenditure of something under three millions sterling would suffice for works with a storage capacity of three milliard cubic meters of water, a result that would greatly exceed what has been accomplished by the Assuan dam. Out of the six milliard cubic meters of water needed for Egypt the Assaun reservoir will only be able to supply two. For the other four we shall have to turn to the terminal reach of the White Nile, with its wide channel, about 1,000 kilometers in length, with no appreciable slope in 500 silometers, and one of 1-100,000 only in the remain

When Egypt needed basin trrigation-through a period of 6,000 years—the mud solvent waters of the Blue Nile, aided by the still more turbid waters of the Athara, supplied her needs. When to-day we need to store clear water for the summer on an Immense scale the White Nile is ready with its to play with, in which case, however, the reservoirilke basin to meet every need Egypt alone but of the Sudan as well. The Nile between Lake No and Khartum is very nearly a lake in flood, and so it would stay for ever if the Blue Nile were subject to a perpetual flood. Retween the low summer and high flood levels there is a difference of eight meters. What we want, there-fore, is masonry works of such strength as will keep this water impounded where it is when the Blue Nile has fallen, and deliver it just when Egypt needs it, not superabundantly in October, Novem ber and December (when there is no call for the

> country is crying out for water), but vice versa a reservoir at Assaun remains untouched question was gone into thoroughly at the time. and the opinion then come to still holds good-namely, "We have concluded that it is absolutely necessary, in the interest of irrigation, to have Egypt a reserve of water that may meet whatever contingencies arise." These contingencies might arise from the fact that some of the more important summer crops are incapable of standing a ten day drought, while the summer discharge of reservoirs high up the Nile would take many days to reach Egypt and might sometimes arrive too

Mrs. Hodgson Pritt in Light.
You may be interested to hear of a thing which happened to me in Brittany last summer to sign some rallway transfers before the nearest British Consul, who was at Brest. I locked up the papers and rallway stocks in a Breton cupbo as high as the ceiling and very solid. I kept the key in my pocket. When my cousin and I were ready to start I took out the key and it would not open its own cupboard. The servants came in turn and tried in vain. We had to miss our trai to Quimper, which was our first stage to Brest. Now our village locksmith was very rough and ready, so the next morning I said I would try th key myself once more, before he perhaps ruined

The key fitted perfectly, and we went. But, imagine, we found at the station great placards posted up telling of the awful wreck of the Brest train the day before; and it was the train in which we should have been but for the obstinancy of the key. We saw the carriages all failen into the river, and the dead and dying were in the hospital as Outmper. We feel this to be a preservation wrought

Senator Vance's Financial Knowledge. From the Washington Heruld.

During his short speech on the Aldrich bill yes-terday Senator Lodge recalled a story which he said the late Senator Vance used to tell and which the Senator from Massachusetts said was recalled to him by the apparently limited knowledge of the present membership of the Senate regarding finan

Senator Vance, he said, during one of the great financial crises of the country went down to North Carolina to make an address and was announced o speak on the financial questions of the day. When he faced his audience he molestly admitted that he was not an expert on financial questions, and said that in fact he knew very little about

"About the only financial principle with which I am entirely familiar," Senator Vance added, "is that it takes two names to float my note."

Philippines to Outlaw Playing Cards. From the Cebu Courser.

Playing cards are doomed to disappear in the Philippines. Legislation is now in the course of preparation to prohibit the manufacture of these cards in the islands and their importation from other countries. The punishment for the importation of such merchandise is to be fixed at 500 pesos

for every packet imported or manufactured. For the possession of a pack of cards there will be a fine of 100 pesos for every pack found, and in both cases the cards will be confiscated and de-

Boston Urbanity.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: In this morning's Sun is a letter from a New Yorker who has been stanck by the unusual politeness of the Bostonese. As a New Yorker spotting a tew days in Boston I can thoroughly indorse this writer. To-night I was accosted by a beggar, who before leaving begged my full pardon for having spoken to me not knowing who I was.

ADMIRER OF POLITENESS. BOSTON, February 21.

Compulsory Education in China. From the Shanghai Times. The Board of Education has proposed to punish either the father or brother of any child above seven years old who is not sent to school, and has uited with the High Commiss compliing law codes to place the new crime in the